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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. STK-081
(0519290.0166)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Chubinskaya et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/081,163 GROUP NO.: 1641
FILING DATE: February 20, 2002 EXAMINER: Gary W. Counts
TITLE: Methods of Using Bone Morphogenic Proteins as Biomarkers for
Determining Cartilage Degeneration and Aging

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on June 27, 2005, in the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination and authorization to charge Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-1721 in the amount of \$790.00. Applicants believe that no extension-of-time or additional fee is required for this Amendment and Response to be entered and considered. However, please consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension, if one is required, and a conditional authorization to charge any related extension fees or other fees necessary for entry and consideration of this paper to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-1721.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.